IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 13 and 16 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12 and 14-15 to read as follows:

A4

3. (Amended) A method for characterizing an individual as possessing a factor contributing to an increased risk of type 1 diabetes or multiple sclerosis comprising:

(a) determining the genotype of said individual with respect to the nucleotide present at position 883 of the TCF-1 gene;

(b) classifying said individual based on the result obtained from step (a), wherein the presence of an A allele indicates a factor contributing to an increased risk of type 1 diabetes or multiple sclerosis.

A5

5. (Amended) A method for characterizing an individual as possessing a factor contributing to an increased risk of atopy or allergic asthma comprising:

(a) determining the genotype of said individual with respect to the nucleotide present at position 883 of the TCF-1 gene;

(b) classifying said individual based on the result obtained from step (a), wherein the presence of a C allele indicates a factor contributing to an increased risk of atopy or allergic asthma.

A6

7. (Amended) A method for determining the genotype of a sample comprising a nucleic acid with respect to the nucleotide present in a TCF-1 gene at position 883, comprising:

(a) contacting the nucleic acid with an oligonucleotide probe exactly complementary to an A allele or a C allele in a region encompassing position 883 under conditions such that hybridization occurs if and only if the A allele or the C allele is present; and

(b) detecting if hybridization occurs, wherein, hybridization to the A allele indicates that the genotype of the sample corresponds to the A allele and hybridization to the C allele indicates that the genotype of the sample corresponds to the C allele.

A9

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the region encompassing position 883 is amplified prior to, or concurrent with step (a).

---

10. (Amended) A method for determining the genotype of a sample comprising a nucleic acid with respect to the nucleotide present in a TCF-1 gene at position 883, comprising:

A7

(a) contacting the nucleic acid with one or more allele-specific primers specific for an A allele or a C allele under amplification conditions such that amplification occurs using said allele-specific primer if and only if the A allele or the C allele is present; and

(b) detecting if amplifications occurs, wherein, amplification of the A allele indicates that the genotype of the sample corresponds to the A allele and amplification of the C allele indicates that the genotype of the sample corresponds to the C allele.

A8

12. (Amended) An isolated oligonucleotide of about 10 to about 35 nucleotides, wherein said oligonucleotide is exactly or substantially complementary to SEQ ID NO: 1, or its complement, in a region which encompasses the polymorphic site at nucleotide position 883, and wherein said oligonucleotide is exactly complementary to SEQ ID NO: 1, or its complement, at said nucleotide position 883.

A10

14. (Amended) The isolated oligonucleotide of Claim 12 selected from the group consisting of GZ351B (SEQ ID NO: 4), GZ374B (SEQ ID NO: 5), KW196 (SEQ ID NO: 8), KW118 (SEQ ID NO: 9), and complements thereof.

15. (Amended) A kit for determining the genotype of an individual with respect to the nucleotide present in the TCF-1 gene at position 883 locus comprising an oligonucleotide of Claim 12.

Please add new Claims 18-26 as follows:

18. (New) The method of claim 3 or 5, wherein said TCF-1 gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, an A allele of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complements thereof.

19. (New) A method for determining the presence of an A allele or a C allele of a TCF-1 gene in a sample comprising a nucleic acid, comprising:

(a) contacting the nucleic acid with an oligonucleotide exactly complementary to the A allele or the C at position 883 under stringent hybridization conditions; and

(b) detecting hybridization wherein, hybridization to the A allele indicates the presence of the A allele and hybridization to the C allele indicates the presence of the C allele.

20. (New) An oligomer fragment of an A allele or a C allele of a TCF-1 gene or the complements thereof, wherein the oligomer fragment comprises the nucleotide at position 883, or its complement.

21. (New) An oligonucleotide of about 10 to about 35 nucleotides that is exactly or substantially complementary to a C allele of a TCF-1 gene, or its complement, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises the nucleotide at position 883, or its complement.

22. (New) An oligonucleotide that is exactly or substantially complementary to an A allele of a TCF-1 gene, or its complement, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises the nucleotide at position 883, or its complement.

23. (New) The oligonucleotide of Claim 22 wherein the oligonucleotide is about 10 to about 35 nucleotides in length.

24. (New) A method for characterizing an individual as possessing a factor contributing to an increased likelihood of having an increased IgE response comprising:

(a) determining the genotype of said individual with respect to the nucleotide present at position 883 of the TCF-1 gene;

(b) classifying said individual based on the result obtained from step (a), wherein the presence of a C allele indicates a factor contributing to an increased likelihood of having an increased IgE response.

A10

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said TCF-1 gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, an A allele of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complements thereof.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said increased IgE response is associated with atopy or allergic asthma.